

WORD

⁴And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." **LUKE 8:4-8**

(Read also **LUKE 8:9-15**.)

One of the methods Jesus used in His teaching was to speak in parables. He used many stories and illustrations to teach profound, heavenly truths. The parable of the sower tells us about the different kinds of soil on which the sower sows his seed. The seed is the Word of God, preached to different kinds of soil (people), and had different results. In this lesson, we will focus on the good soil and learn the importance of hearing the Word of God and obeying it, resulting in a fruitful life.

1 Hear the Word.

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'
¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." **LUKE 8:9-11**

The seed in the parable of the sower represents the Word of God (Mark 4:14), which He graciously gives. All the kinds of soil had the same opportunity to hear the Word, though the results were not the same. What is the difference between hearing and understanding? Why should hearing God's Word result in obedience?

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2 Obey the Word.

"As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience." **LUKE 8:15**

Hearing the Word is a privilege we all have, but it shouldn't stop there. The Bible commands us to be *doers of the word, and not hearers only* (James 1:22), so we will not deceive ourselves. Apart from applying the Word of God, there can be no lasting spiritual growth in our lives. How does the Bible describe those who hear the Word of God and obey it? (Luke 11:28)

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3 Bear much fruit.

⁸"And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold. . . . ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience." **LUKE 8:8,15**

The yield of the seed was different depending on the soil. There are distractions such as cares, testing, and temptations (birds, rocks, thorns, etc.) that prevented the seed from bearing fruit. If we desire to bear fruit, we will need to *hold fast* to the Word (Philippians 2:16) and persevere no matter what. Bearing much fruit is a lifetime of walking in obedience to God and relying on His grace to endure. What is the purpose of bearing fruit? (John 15:8)

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